Schemes for Protection of Majuli Island

103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to the Unstarred Question 1777 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of the schemes finalized and achievements made so far on erosion protection work of Majuli Island of Assam both short-term and long-term;

(b) the status of the clearance of DPR concerning of Master Plan on Majuli Island by Planning Commission towards erosion protection work;

(c) whether the amount is budgeted so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the schemes will be fully commissioned and operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) Long-term measures:

The Detailed Project Report prepared by Brahmaputra Board, which was earlier estimated to cost of Rs. 102.43 crore was examined in the Central Water Commission and has been technically cleared for an amount of Rs. 86.56 crore. The Brahmaputra Board would be conducting model study of the entire reach of the Majuli Island to study the river configuration to firm up the long-term measures proposed in the above scheme.

Short-term measures :

As regard short-term measures, the Brahmaputra Board had constituted a Committee of Experts comprising of senior officers from Water Resources Department, Government of Assam, Central Water Commission, Central Water & Power Research Station, Brahmaputra Board to identify and suggest immediate anti-erosion measures to be taken up for protection of Majuli Island. On the recommendation of the Committee, a modified scheme amounting to Rs. 6.21 crore has been formulated by Brahmaputra Board and technically cleared by Central Water Commission for taking up immediate anti-erosion measures for Majuli Island. The Standing Finance Committee memorandum, which,

inter alia, incorporates the above scheme, has been accorded 'in-principle' approval by Planning Commission.

In order to take up various schemes for implementation by the Brahmaputra Board during 10th Five Year Plan, a provision of Rs. 42.00 crore has been made, out of which Rs. 5.00 crore has been provided for during 2003-04. The scheme under the short-term measures is proposed to be implemented under the above outlay during 10th Five Year Plan subject to clearance by SFC. As regard long-term measures, the implementation will depend upon the model study.

Action Plan for Flood control in Orissa

104. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have drawn up an action plan, as permanent solution, to control floods in Orissa State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood Management being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

As per information received from the Government of Orissa, they have drawn up an action plan for permanent solution to control floods in Orissa, the details of which are given as below :—

In the Mahanadi basin one major reservoir Hirakud on river Mahanadi and some medium projects on its tributaries are able to moderate a medium flood in its downstream. Further the State Government proposes to take up nine no. of projects *inter-alia* having flood control benefits. A proposal has been formulated by the State Government for raising and strengthening of embankments in the deltaic areas.

In the Brahmani Basin, besides a major reservoir at Rengali which is able to reduce considerably the flood havoc in its downstream, the State Government proposes to take up two more schemes in the basin.